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[0012] FIG. 40 1 is a diagram illustrating a blocking device with selective multi-port blocking consistent with concepts of the invention;

[0013] FIG. 44 2 is a diagram illustrating the blocking device of FIG. 40 1 in additional detail.

[0019] FIG. 40 1 is a diagram illustrating a blocking device 203 consistent with the present invention. Blocking device 203 may be a physical device inserted between a multiplicity of host computers (1011, 1012, 1013 . . . ) and a long-term storage device, such as hard disk drive 205. Host computers (1011, 1012, 1013 . . . ) may be connected to blocking device 203 through standard cables (1021, 1022, 1023 . . . ). Similarly, drive 205 may be connected to blocking device 203 through a standard cable 204.

[0021] FIG. 44 2 is a diagram illustrating blocking device 203 in additional detail. Blocking device 203 includes three main components: drive emulators (1121, 1122, 1123 . . . ), embedded processor 330, and IDE drive interface 360. When hosts (1011, 1012, 1013 . . . ) attempts to communicate with drive 205, the hosts (1011, 1012, 1013 . . . ) are actually communicating with a drive emulator (1121, 1122, 1123 . . . ). This drive emulator delays the communication from hosts (1011, 1012, 1013 . . . ) until embedded processor 330 has examined the communication. Embedded processor 330, based on its examination of the command from hosts (1011, 1012, 1013 . . . ), may either pass the command to IDE drive interface 360 or drop (block) the command. IDE drive interface 360 is a standard IDE drive interface that connects blocking device 203 to drive 205.